

# GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

## 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Governor Jennifer Granholm's comprehensive and detailed economic plan continued to define the state's agenda in 2006. The Governor remained consistent, disciplined and unwavering in her efforts to implement the plan. She continued to go anywhere and do anything to bring jobs to Michigan.

By working the plan, the Granholm Administration continued diversifying the economy, fought to protect the jobs we have and made critical investments in college education for every child, affordable health care and protecting Michigan's quality of life.

### **I. *Working the Plan***

Implementing the Governor's plan to create a diverse, robust economy remained the administration's top priority this year. The components of this comprehensive plan are now in place, and at work, for Michigan's economy.

- The \$2 Billion 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund awarded \$138 million to 85 companies, researchers and entrepreneurs to develop new technologies and create good jobs.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund invested additional funding to promote Michigan's tourism and agriculture industries.
- As part of the Governor's \$4 billion Jobs Today program, Local Jobs Today provided \$323 million in state and federal funding for 210 local road and bridge projects creating more than 5,000 new jobs.
- The MI Opportunity Partnership continued to help unemployed workers connect with available jobs. The program has already helped place more than 117,000 people in jobs.
- The Governor remained committed to "going anywhere, doing anything" to bring jobs to Michigan, traveling once again to Japan. Her two trips have resulted in more than \$100 million in investment and 1,000 new jobs.
- The Venture Michigan Fund I and the Charter One Job Creation Loan Program are making \$400 million in low-interest funding available to companies looking to locate, expand and create jobs here in Michigan.
- Michigan is making a significant investment in alternative energy development, production and use. As a result, nine ethanol and biodiesel plants are operating or in process, new incentives were created for use of these fuels and the installation of fuel pumps and the Renewable Fuels Commission is now at work developing additional strategies.
- 14 new companies chose to locate or expand their headquarters in Michigan, including Google who chose to Michigan for their new AdWords division and Whirlpool who will bring their Maytag division.

- The Governor proposed the Michigan Business Tax which would replace the already-eliminated Single Business Tax, provided a \$150 million tax cut to Michigan businesses, offer the lowest tax rate in the country, eliminate the tax on payroll and benefits and provide significant personal property tax relief.

## ***II. Making Health Care More Affordable and Accessible***

In 2006, Governor Granholm unveiled her Michigan First Healthcare Plan to provide Michigan citizens with universal access to affordable health care.

This revolutionary plan, which will require no new state funding, will make affordable private health plans available to small business employees, the self-employed and the working poor who are presently without access to traditional employer-based health insurance or government-run programs. The administration has been negotiating with the federal government to implement this program.

The Michigan Health Information Network brought together more than 200 health care professionals this year to expand the use of information and communication technologies. Their recommendations are expected to reduce duplicative medical services and mistakes, improve patient care and reduce the cost of health care for everyone.

The Granholm administration also awarded more than \$9 million in Accelerated Health Professional Training grants in 2006. These grants will help 11 Michigan community colleges and universities expand and accelerate training programs for nurses and other allied health professionals to help meet rising demand.

## ***III. Investing in Our Kids***

In her 2006 State of the State speech, Governor Granholm said, “When it comes to education, we will have one overarching goal: to become the best-educated workforce in the nation. To do that, we will give our children the tools they need to be successful ...” This year, the Granholm Administration took several critical steps to meet that goal:

And today, the Governor will sign her Michigan Promise scholarship plan into law, giving allowing every student to earn \$4,000 for college or technical training. The scholarship plan is a key part of the Cherry Commission’s recommendations for doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan in the next decade.

Governor Granholm fought for and signed into law a new rigorous curriculum for Michigan’s high school students. The tough new graduation requirements, which require math, science, English, social studies, foreign language, the arts and on-line learning make Michigan’s standards among the toughest in the nation.

Funding for public education is at an all-time high. In addition to increasing per pupil spending by \$210 per student, the Governor proposed a new after school program to help middle school in math and science and a significant investment in early childhood programs to ensure that every child starts school ready to succeed.

#### ***IV. Protecting our Families and Our Way of Life***

The Granholm Administration also took a number of actions this year to protect Michigan's families and our way of life.

- Granholm signed legislation raising the state's minimum wage for the first time in nine years, fulfilling a pledge she made to Michigan workers in her State of the State address. The first increase took effect on October 1.
- The Governor's Insurance Pooling Initiative made lower insurance rates available to metro Detroit and Flint area residents. The program, through Auto-Owners Insurance, offered an immediate 10% discount to residents with good driving records. Already, more than 4,600 residents have signed up for the program.
- The Governor asked for, and received an additional \$25 million to provide home heating assistance to Michigan families struggling with the high cost of natural gas.
- Granholm signed the most comprehensive water protection statute in Michigan history, protecting the Great Lakes from large-scale diversion. The legislation fulfilled a 20-year-old commitment to protect the waters of the Great Lakes Basin.
- Granholm signed legislation to protect Michigan's seniors and vulnerable citizens by requiring background checks for all workers in nursing homes, long term care facilities and home health agencies.
- The Governor announced a comprehensive plan to protect Michigan families from harmful mercury emissions. The plan calls for a reduction of emissions from Michigan power plants by 90% in just ten years.
- Granholm renewed her call on President Bush to cap exorbitant oil company profits as Michigan citizens struggled to pay for \$3.00 per gallon gasoline. The Governor launched an on-line petition which more than 275,000 people signed and the Department of Agriculture conducted nearly 25,000 gas pump inspections to ensure that motorists were getting the quantity and quality they deserved – more than triple the previous year.
- The Governor signed legislation to protect children from the dangers of methamphetamine exposure. The package, which Granholm called for in her State of the State, defined meth exposure as child abuse for the first time, increasing penalties for those who would endanger children.
- Granholm won a tax cut for Michigan's working families. Beginning in 2008, the state's lowest wage earners will receive a tax cut of up to \$880 thanks to the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit.